

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE, US

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT WITH SED FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER

REF: BERLIN 5302

1.) DEPARTMENT IS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT YOU ARE TO MEET WITH HONECKER. THIS SHOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY, THE FIRST FOR A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL, TO ASSESS THE SED FIRST SECRETARY PERSONALLY AND TO GAIN SOME IMPRESSIONS OF HIS LEADERSHIP QUALITIES. WE ENVISAGE THE MEETING AS A GOOD OCCASION TO EXPLORE HONECKER'S THINKING ON THE GDR'S POSITION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA AND SHOULD ALSO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO PRESENT OUR VIEWS ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS GENERALLY AND US-GDR RELATIONS IN PARTICULAR. IN THIS INITIAL CONTACT WITH HONECKER, WE BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE TO KEEP THE DISCUSSION ON A GENERAL PLANE AND TO AVOID GOING DEEPLY INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF BILATERAL MATTERS. HOWEVER, WE THINK YOU SHOULD TREAT AREAS OF DIFFERENCE FRANKLY IF
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THEY ARISE. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS ON THOSE TOPICS WHICH MIGHT COME UP DURING YOUR MEETING.

2. EAST-WEST RELATIONS

- --ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO CONTINUE ITS POLICY OF SEEKING RELAXATION OF TENSIONS WITH USSR. WE BELIEVE THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP ALSO HAS STRONG COMMITMENT TO DETENTE.
 - --RATIONALE FOR DETENTE IS CLEAR. THERE CAN BE NO PEACEFUL INTERNATIONAL ORDER WITHOUT CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND SOVIET UNION--TWO NATIONS WITH POWER TO DESTROY MANKIND. WE HAVE MADE IMPORTANT PROGRESS IN REDUCING TENSIONS AND IN BEGINNING TO LAY BASIS FOR MORE COOPERATIVE FUTURE. COURSE OF IMPROVING US-SOVIET RELATIONS WILL NOT ALWAYS BE EASY. IT MUST NEVERTHELESS BE PURSUED WITH CONVICTION DESPITE DISAPPOINTMENTS AND OBSTACLES.
 - --IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DETENTE, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT NATIONS ALWAYS EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN THEIR RELATIONS AND BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE AND SETTLE DIFFERENCES BY PEACEFUL MEANS. THEY MUST ALSO SEEK TO PROMOTE CONDITIONS IN WHICH ALL COUNTRIES LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY AND NOT BE SUBJECT TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
 - --SALT AND OTHER SECURITY ISSUES REMAIN KEY ELEMENT IN US-USSR RELATIONS. SOVIETS HAVE SHOWN GENERALLY POSITIVE ATTITUDE FOLLOWING VALDIVOSTOK AGREEMENT. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RECENT CONSULTATIONS WITH GROMYKO IN GENEVA CONFIRMED THAT OUR RELATIONS ARE PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY IN SECURITY AREA, BUT SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ARE AHEAD.
 - --ECONOMIC RELATIONS REMAIN IMPORTANT TO DETENTE AND US-USSR EFFORTS TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN THIS AREA WILL CONTINUE. WE CONTINUE TO REGARD AN ORDERLY AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE OVERALL IMPROVEMENT
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- OF RELATIONS.
- --IN LIGHT OF RECENT PROGRESS IN CSCE, WE WILL CONTINUE ACTIVE EFFORTS TO HAVE IT CONCLUDED AT AN EARLY DATE. WE ASSUME THAT THE RESULTS ACHIEVED WILL PERMIT THE CONCLUSION TO TAKE PLACE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

- --WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT DURING THE CURRENT
ROUND OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, EFFORTS WILL BE FOCUSED ON
WAYS TO MAKE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS ON THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

OF THE NEGOTIATIONS -- REDUCTIONS DESIGNED TO REDUCE
EXISTING MANPOWER ASSYMETRIES IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND
THEREBY PROMOTE STABILITY IN THIS AREA.

3. US-GDR RELATIONS

- --WE ARE GENERALLY PLEASED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT
OF RELATIONS SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER. OUR EMBASSY HAS
ESTABLISHED GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH GDR OFFICIALS.

- --WE UNDERSTAND THAT AMBASSADOR SIEBER HAS ALSO
BEEN ACTIVE IN WASHINGTON, HAVING SEEN TWO CABINET
MEMBERS (SIMON AND DENT) AND SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS
(ALBERT AND EASTLAND).

- --IT IS OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE THE BUSTNESS-
LIKE DEVELOPMENT OF US-GDR RELATIONS, ENDEAVORING TO MAKE
PROGRESS ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST WHEREVER POSSIBLE
AND BY AVOIDING FRICTION WHERE AGREEMENT IS NOT POSSIBLE.
HOWEVER, WE MUST REALIZE THAT OUR VIEWS ON MANY ISSUES
REMAIN DIFFERENT AND THAT PROGRESS IS LIKELY TO BE
BURDENED BY TASK OF OVERCOMING THE HISTORY OF DISTRUST
WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN US. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO OVER-
COME THIS PROBLEM AND ASSUME GDR WILL DO THE SAME.

- --WE WELCOMED THE COMMENCEMENT OF CONSULAR
NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS MONTH AND LOOK
FORWARD TO A SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS THIS SPRING
AFTER BOTH SIDES HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT
TOGETHER NEW DRAFTS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF THE
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FIRST ROUND. (SEPTTEL CONTAINS GUIDANCE ON CONTROVERSIAL
POINTS IN CONSULAR CONVENTION.)

4. TRADE ISSUES

- --THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN PROVIDING
APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN THEIR
DEALINGS WITH TRADE CONTACTS IN THE GDR. WE NOTE THAT
A NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GDR ENTERPRISES HAVE BEEN
IN THE UNITED STATES RECENTLY CONCERNING A VARIETY OF
COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS. WHILE THERE WAS A SLIGHT DE-
CREASE IN OVERALL US-GDR TRADE LAST YEAR, OUR STATISTICS
INDICATE A 30 PERCENT INCREASE IN GDR EXPORTS TO THE
UNITED STATES.

- --THE US WILL HAVE A SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AT THE LEIPZIG FAIR NEXT MONTH AND WE TRUST THAT THIS WILL PROVE USEFUL FOR BOTH AMERICAN AND GDR ENTERPRISES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING PARTICIPATION IN THIS SEMI-ANNUAL EVENT.

- --AS TO MFN AND EXIM BANK CREDITS, WE MUST STATE FRANKLY THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE NO PROSPECT OF EITHER BEING GRANTED IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THE GDR IS OF COURSE AWARE OF THE LEGISLATIVE SITUATION REGARDING THESE ISSUES IN THE US AT PRESENT.

5. BEIL VISIT (ONLY IF RAISED BY HONECKER)

- --WE UNDERSTAND THE GDR POSITION THAT A VISIT TO THE US BY DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER BEIL WOULD BE USEFUL.

- --WE DO NOT, OF COURSE, OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE TO BEIL'S VISIT. SINCE OUR RELATIONSHIP IS A NEW ONE AND REQUIRES CAREFUL NURTURING, SUCH A VISIT SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PREPARED.

- --OUR VIEW IS THAT WHILE NORMAL TRADE CAN AND SHOULD GO ON THERE IS NO NEED TO INJECT A POLITICAL ELEMENT INTO IT AT THIS POINT, AND THIS IS WHAT A VISIT BY BEIL AT THIS TIME MIGHT DO.

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- --WE WOULD PREFER, THEREFORE, TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF BEIL'S VISIT SOMEWHAT LATER AFTER WE HAVE A CHANCE TO DEVELOP OUR RELATIONS IN VARIOUS AREAS IN COMING MONTHS.

6. HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

- --WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS SO FAR ACHIEVED ON THE LIST OF HUMANITARIAN CASES WHICH THE US SIDE PRESENTED TO THE GDR AUTHORITIES LAST YEAR. SEVEN OF THE 28 CASES ARE APPARENTLY RESOLVED OR ON THE LAY TO RESOLUTION.

- --WE CONSIDER THIS A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION BY THE GDR TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE US AND LOOK FORWARD TO ADDITIONAL PROGRESS IN THIS AREA. KISSINGER

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